

State Science Advisory Council  
June 18, 2003  
Dept. of Community and Economic Development  
Minutes

**Members present:**

Troy Takach, parvus Corp.  
Jon Callender, Kennecott Land  
Brent Miller, USU  
Wayne Barlow, Wescor, Inc.  
Sue Johnson, Futura Ind.  
Greg Critchfield, Myriad Genetics  
Mike Brehm, Brehm Environmental  
Bill Barnett, Hyclone  
Michael Keene, State of Utah

**Guests present:**

Dale Barnard, USU  
Keri Hamilton-SLTrib  
Gerri Dowdle-UDOH

The meeting was called to order by outgoing chair Troy Takach. Each board member was welcomed and recognized. A motion to approve minutes was made, all voted in favor.

**Committee Reports**

**Governor's Medal, Brent Miller** - Brent gave a recap of the Governor's Medal award ceremony. There were nine winners total. The winners William Smith, Virginia Ord are in Science Education, Brett Moulding and Jerry Miller in Government, J. Clair Batty, David Bowles and Carl Witter in Academia and Fred Lampropoulos and Ashok Joshi in Industry.

There was a meeting held on June 13, 2003 to discuss the scoring criteria and the possibility of revising the scoring and the criteria in which the subcommittee makes the selection of winners. This committee will present to the council the revised scoring when complete.

**COEP 2003 Selections, Mike Keene** – Mike gave a recap of the Centers of Excellence program and the Centers that will receive funding for FY 03-04. Attached is a description of each center and the award they received. There is a need to clarify that the Advisory Council for the Centers of Excellence operates under strict confidentiality. Some centers were unsure of the level of confidentiality and hesitated to divulge very sensitive information until it was learned that there is strict confidentiality used. This will be clarified for next year's round of funding as well as at the Director's Orientation meeting that will be held in July.

**Presentations**

**SARS Epidemic- Gerrie Dowdle, PM for Disease and Outbreak, Dept. of Health**  
Gerrie presented to the SAC the latest information that the Dept of Health has on SARS. There was a PowerPoint presentation provided and that will be posted to the website. Gerrie focused on the impact of SARS on the general health and the impact on the Dept. of Health. After the presentation, there was a question and answer period.

**Dale Barnard, Institute of Antiviral Research, USU.** Dale presented to the SAC information on the Institute of Antiviral Research and its facilities at Utah State University. Due to the sensitive nature in the PowerPoint presentation, this information will not be posted to the website. He discussed the way USU obtains a virus and the precautionary measures that are used to prevent the spread of any viruses into the environment. There was a question and answer period conducted after Dr. Barnard's presentation.

**A motion was made by Troy Takach to write a letter of accommodation for the Institute of Antiviral Research. Greg Critchfield, Troy Takach and Mike Brehm will compose the letter and provide it to the appropriate parties.**

**Motion passed all in favor.**

### **SAC Business**

The new Chairman was introduced along with the new Executive Committee. The incoming Chair is Brent Miller from USU, with the Executive Committee consisting of Michael Brehm from Brehm Environmental as Vice-Chair and

**Vacant SAC position** - There is one spot available still for the Science Council. It was approached that David Fischer still be considered for this position, however, the Governor's office indicated that he would be better served on another committee. Sue Johnson will head up the nominating committee again to find appropriate candidates for this vacancy. She will report next time on her findings. Marshall Wright was suggested as a good candidate represent a group not represented now.

**State Science and Technology Notes- Mike Keene.** The Utah Science Center is looking at retrofitting the old library through a bonding issue. This should appear on the ballot this fall. There is a commission looking at the graduation requirements for high school. The State office of Education is proposing the use of competency based testing. Using this testing base, all a student would have to take is one science course and have the ability to test out of the other courses. The diplomas would not be equal. Mike is planning on meeting with Rich Kendell to discuss the details of this proposal. This proposal is in direct violation of the Governor's mission of graduating more scientists and engineers. This was started by a group of industry people.

**A motion was made to form a committee to create a white paper about the competency based testing and the issues surrounding this proposal, including how to judge competency and the experience of those teaching science etc.**

**Second by Sue Johnson  
All in favor**

A committee was established to meet with Rich and discuss the proposal and how the SAC can get involved. Sue Johnson, Jon Callender and Greg Critchfield are going to meet with Rich Kendell at the earliest convenience to find out the points of this proposal.

The need to contact Phyllis Embley and get her involved is extremely important. She either needs to start attending or the possibility of her replacement needs to be addressed.

**Troy Takach made the nomination of Greg Critchfield from Myriad Genetics for member at large.**

**Second by Mike Brehm  
Motion passed.**

The next meeting was scheduled for August 19, 2003, at the State Capitol. The meetings were changed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday to accommodate the use of meeting rooms at the Capitol.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.